

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PERSONAL

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Brussels, Belgium, September 11, 1950

DOS REVIEWED 18-Mar-2013: DECLASSIFIED FOR RELEASE IN FULL

Dear Durby:

I would like to ask you for a personal favor. It concerns Foreign Service Officer Robert F. Corrigan, Political Advisor, EUCOM, Heidelberg, in whom I took a friendly interest since he served with me in Germany.

This young officer has promise and is a type I think you would like. Toward the end of 1949 he was in the United States and he tells me that he wrote in a moment of exasperation a letter to the Department, the date of which I do not have, in which he expressed himself rather critically, I believe, regarding his failure to move ahead more rapidly in the Service. I have never seen the letter but I understand that he made certain references to the late Allen Dawson and generally wrote in an indiscreet and possibly emotional manner.

Mr. Corrigan has told me several times that he regrets very much his hasty and ill-considered words and has applied for the return of the letter with the request that, if possible, it be expunged from his record.

Would it be possible to comply with his request? On the face of it, it does not seem an unreasonable one. You and I who have been in the Service over a period of years know that every officer has his moments of exasperation over failure to make more rapid progress. In fact, I know that you agree an officer is not worth much unless he does have such moments and it resolves itself into a question of his control. Corrigan is still a young man and, I believe, his action is understandable.

Of course, if there is a rule against this plea, skip it, but if it can be done, I would appreciate it.

With warm regards, believe me,

Yours ever,

Robert Murphy

Elbridge Durbrow, Esq.,  
Chief of Division of Foreign Personnel,  
Department of State